



September 10, 2004

Providence man is sentenced to five years in prison for four bank robberies

A federal judge has sentenced **Hubert C. Johnson**, of Providence, to 63 months in federal prison for four bank robberies committed last year in Providence and Cranston. Johnson committed two of the robberies while out on bail after being arrested for the first two.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed on October 27 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In March, Johnson, 41, of 179 Linwood Avenue, pleaded guilty to four counts of bank robbery, admitting that he took money from tellers at Sovereign Bank, 520 Elmwood Avenue on June 20, 2003, Citizens Bank at 63 Westminster Street on June 23, a Sovereign branch at 551 North Main Street on July 8, and Domestic Bank, 815 Reservoir Avenue, Cranston, on July 9.

At the plea hearing in March, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose said that the government had proof that, in each robbery, Johnson entered the bank, handed a teller a threatening note demanding money and fled with cash, in amounts ranging from \$208 to \$1651. Police suspect he had a concealed toy gun in the Domestic Bank robbery. In all, Johnson took \$3791 from the four banks.

After a teller identified Johnson from a photo array, Providence Police arrested him on June 26, charging him with state bank robbery offenses for the June 20 robbery at the Sovereign

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branch on Elmwood and the June 23 robbery at Citizens. He was released on bail the next day and, on July 9, was arrested for the subsequent two robberies, at Sovereign on North Main and at Domestic Bank in Cranston. Johnson has been in custody since his second arrest.

Providence Police and **Cranston Police** investigated the robberies, with assistance from the **Federal Bureau of Investigation**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose prosecuted it.

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